

■ KAREN ARUKESAMY AND AIEZAT FADZELL AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT YESTERDAY

Nod for Poca amendment

> Bill gets passed at pre-dawn sitting by voice vote

KUALA LUMPUR: The Prevention of Crime (Amendment) Act 2017 was passed in the Dewan Rakyat early yesterday morning, after the house stopped the clock to complete the day's proceedings.

The bill was passed at 4.05am by voice vote after the third reading was made by Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed and seconded by Deputy Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Halimah Mohd Sadique.

Earlier when winding up the debate on the bill, Nur Jazlan said the amendment was aimed at expediting the decision-making process by the Crime Prevention Board in any case, besides facilitating the board's management duties.

With the amendment, the board will be empowered to urge officers investigating a case to speed up the preparation of the report for further action.

"At present, the existing law gives the

investigating officer a maximum of 38 days to prepare the report, but with this amendment, the board can urge the officer to speed up the report's preparation."

When tabling the bill, Nur Jazlan said it had 16 clauses that contained several proposals.

One of them, he said, is to make it an offence for action that resulted in the destruction and loss of an electronic monitoring device (EMD).

The bill also proposed that destructive action and loss of other devices used in the handling of EMDs also be made an offence.

"The amendment is intended to give power to the court to impose a jail sentence on a person who fails to pay damages for loss of an EMD and other devices related to it.

"The amendment also proposed that members of the Crime Prevention Board can be reappointed for any period."

- Bernama